Linnen Company &c.

(1)

21. B

PROPOSALS *of* Nicholas Dupin, *Esq*; *The first Deputy Governour of the Linnen and white Writing-paper Corporation in* England, Scotland, *and* Ireland. *To all the Parishes in and about the City of* London, *and within the weekly Bills of Mortality, to set the Poor to Work, who are not employed in the Woollen Manufacture; whereby the said Parishes will (after the expiration of the first Year) be not only eased and discharged of the Burthen of them for ever, but also be considerable Gainers: For by Employing 50000 Poor, in the several Parish Workhouses, the product of their Labour will amount, in one Year, to the Sum of 225000 l. as it is hereafter more at large explained; which Sum is to remain for a perpetual Fund or Stock, to be lodged and secured in the Chamber of* London *or Bank of* England, *for the Use of the Poor, besides the Charitable Gifts, Legacies, and other Revenues formerly given and bequeathed by pious Persons, and the Voluntary, Liberal, and Charitable Contributions to be bestowed by well disposed Christians, towards the encreasing the said Poor's Stock, and also the Profits of the Manufactured Goods when sold.*

WHEREAS Their Excellencies the Lords Justices of *England*, with the Lords of his Majesties most Honourable Privy-Council, were graciously pleased in the last publick Proclamation, bearing Date the 13*th*. of *October*, 1698. to Order, That the Laws (for the Relief of the Poor, and setting them to Work throughout this Kingdom) should be duly put in Execution: And whereas the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of the City of *London*, did desire the abovenamed Mr. *Dupin* to produce his Proposals for setting the Poor to Work in and about the said City; and also desired him to Sign the said Proposals, which he accordingly did. Whereupon his Lordship went to *Guild-Hall* and appointed a Committee, where the said Mr. *Dupin* was desired to give his Attendance; the said Committee having sat several times before about Employing the Poor: In order thereunto the said Mr. *Dupin* hath viewed several convenient Work-houses, which were formerly built, for to Employ the Poor of the several Parishes in and about this City; which Proposals are as followeth.

That for as much as this Undertaking cannot be begun without a considerable Sum of Money, to be employed in buying of Hemp, Flax, and other Materials to put the same in practice, It is humbly proposed, That there shall be a Competent Joint Stock, raised by way of Subscription; which Money so to be raised, shall, at the First Year's end, be repaid to the Subscribers, with Ten Pound *per Cent. per An.* profit, which may well be afforded, for the Work will produce One Hundred and Fifty Pound *per Cent.* profit at least the First Year; and then the rest of the Stock, and remaining part of the Profit, to be to the sole Use of the Poor, so that the Establishment hereof, will in no wise be chargeable to any, but rather very advantagious to all concerned therein. And these Poor who are now a Burthen to the Inhabitants, will, in a short time be able to earn by their Work wherewithal to pay Rents and Taxes, and serve the King by Sea and Land. *First*,

That there shall be a Company to keep Courts, consisting of Governour, Sub-Governour, Deputy-Governour, Treasurer and Assistants; one or two Persons to be chosen and nominated out of each Parish as Assistants; and to have Power to nominate and appoint Committees of Honest, Sufficient, and Skilful Men; and also to Constitute Secretaries, Book-keepers, Store-keepers, Overseers, Agents, and such other Officers as shall be requisite. *Secondly*,

No Mony to be paid out of the Treasury for the use of the Poor, without a Warrant signed by one of the Governours, and five or six Assistants at least. *Thirdly*,

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A That

printed anno 1698.

Linnen Company &c.

21. B

PROPOSALS *of* Nicholas Dupin, *Esq; The first Deputy Governour of the Linnen and white Writing-paper Corporation in* England, Scotland, *and* Ireland. *To all the Parishes in and about the City of* London, *and within the weekly Bills of Mortality, to set the Poor to Work, who are not employed in the Woollen Manufacture; whereby the said Parishes will (after the expiration of the first Year) be not only eased and discharged of the Burthen of them for ever, but also be considerable Gainers: For by Employing 50000 Poor, in the several Parish Workhouses, the product of their Labour will amount, in one Year, to the Sum of 225000l. as it is hereafter more at large expained; which Sum is to remain for a perpetual Fund or Stock, to be lodged and secured in the Chamber of* London *or Bank of* England, *for the Use of the Poor, besides the Charitable Gifts, Legacies, and other Revenues formerly given and bequeathed by pious Persons, and the Voluntary, Liberal, and Charitable Contributions to be bestowed by well disposed Christians, towards the encreasing the said Poor's Stock, and also the Profits of the Manufactured Goods when sold.*

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No Mony to be paid out of the Treasury for the use of the Poor, without a Warrant signed by one of the Governours, and five or six Assistants at least. *Thirdly,*

printed anno 1698.

Fourthly, That the ſaid M. *Dupin* will be obliged to procure and produce to the general Court or Committee, a competent number of Engliſh, French, and Dutch Proteſtant Artiſts, both Men and Women, who ſhall Work at the Pariſh Work-houſes, and be engaged for Eighteen Pence *per* Week extraordinary, over and above the common Wages for their Work, in conſideration of their pains and loſs of time, to Teach and Inſtruct the ſaid poor in their ſeveral Trades and Occupations, *viz.* to Spin, Weave Linnen Cloth, make Lace and Fringes, Tapes, Nets for Fiſhing, and other Nets, Packthread, and ſeveral other ſorts of Works.

Fifthly, That the ſaid Work-houſes are to be allowed to the Company, for to Employ the ſaid Poor belonging to the ſaid ſeveral Pariſhes, with the Rooms and all other Appurtenances thereunto appartaining, free from Rents and Taxes.

Sixthly, That all the Wheels, Reels, Looms, Reeds, and all things relating thereunto which ſhall be made uſe of in the Pariſh Work-houſes, ſhall be provided out of the Companies Joint-ſtock.

Sventhly, That all Children from Seven Years of Age, ſhall be taught to Spin and do other Works at the Charges of the Company, to be alſo allowed out of the Joint Stock; the ſaid poor Children to be maintained for the firſt Year by the Pariſhes; but after the ſaid firſt Year, they ſhall be conſtantly Employed, and Paid according to the value of their Work. So the Pariſhes ſhall be clearly diſcharg'd of them.

Eighthly, That all poor Houſe-keepers and their Families who can Spin and Work at their own Habitations, ſhall have prepared Hemp and Flax delivered them by weight from the Company, and ſhall be paid according to the Standard and fineneſs of Yarn which they ſhall Spin, and ſhall have Wheels and Reels delivered to them by the Company; but the Charges of the ſaid Wheels and Reels ſhall be deducted out of the value of their Work at Two-pence *per* Week, until the Company be reimburſed of what the ſaid Wheels and Reels coſt them, then the ſaid Wheels and Reels to be their own. Likewiſe the Poor Weavers, who have Looms of their own at their Habitations, ſhall have Yarn delivered to them by weight, and ſhall be duly paid by the Company according to the value of their Work.

Ninthly, That the Pariſhes ſhall aid and aſſiſt the Company's Agents and Matrons in the ſecuring of Flax, Hemp, and Yarn, and to return the Yarn from the Spinners, and Cloath from the Weavers to the Company.

Tenthly, Two Liſts of the Names of the Poor of each Pariſh ſhall be made and Signed by ſome of the Pariſhioners and one of the Governours of the Company, for each of them to keep to prevent Miſtakes.

Eleventhly, The Company ſhall provide fit Perſons (at convenient times) to teach the ſaid Poor to Read, and live in the fear of God.

Twelfthly, As for Stragglers, Vagabonds, and Beggars that are Strangers, they ſhall be taken up and ſet to Work in the Pariſh Work-Houſes; but if they obſtinately refuſe to work, they ſhall be compelled to work in *Bridewell*, and the Company ſhall provide Hemp, Flax, and other Materials for them to Work upon.

Thirteenthly, Whereas it is propoſed to Employ Fifty Thouſand Poor, belonging to the ſeveral Pariſhes in and about the City of *London*, and within the Weekly Bills of Mortality as aforeſaid, in the following Trades; and that the ſame will require a Conſiderable Sum of Money to be Employed in buying of Hemp and Flax Thread, to make ſeveral ſorts of Lace, Fringes, and for other Uſes; and alſo in buying of Hatchels, Spinning-Wheels, Reels, Warping-Mills, Looms, Reeds, Harniſſes, Rods, Shuttles, Bobbins, Quills, *&c.* And Cuſhions-Bobbins, Patterns of Parchment, Thread and Pins to make Lace, *&c.* And Wooden-pins and Needles, to make all ſorts of Fiſhing and other Nets; and ſeveral ſorts of Steel and Braſs Reeds, to make ſeveral ſorts of Sail-Cloath, and other ſorts of Cloath. Engines, Blocks, Stools, Tables, Benches, Mallets, Candleſticks, Lanthorns, and ſeveral other things relating to the ſaid Trades and Manufactures, and to pay Workmen and Servants Wages. It is therefore thought Convenient to draw Articles in order to take in Subſcriptions in two diſtinct Books, the one to take in Subſcriptions at Twenty Pounds per Share, payable at Three ſeveral Payments, into the Chamber of *London*, or Bank of *England*; and the ſame to be Emproved and laid out as the general Court (when aſſembled) ſhall think fit. And the ſaid Subſcribers to have their Subſcription Money repaid them at the Years end, with Ten Pound *per Cent.* Profit, as aforeſaid out of the Joint-Stock, as it may more at large appear in the ſaid Articles. And the other Subſcription Book, to take in Subſcriptions from all Good and Charitable Chriſtians, who ſhall be voluntarily diſpoſed to Subſcribe therein from One Shilling and upwards, gratis, to increaſe the ſaid Poor's Stock: Which ſaid Charity Money is to be paid into the ſaid Chamber of *London*, or Bank of *England*, by certain Reſponſible, Truſty Perſons, who ſhall be choſen in each

Pariſh

Pariſh and authorized to Collect and Leavy the the ſame by the Order of the general Court, or Committee appointed by them, which will be about the beginning of *January* next; which ſaid Collectors ſo Authoriſed, are to Enter each Perſons Name, with the Sum which they will be pleaſed to beſtow, in a Book; and ſhall pay the ſame, when Collected, into the Treaſury, and take Receipts for it.

That the ſaid Subſcription-Book and Receipts may be produced to the general Court or Committee appointed for that purpoſe, and compared by them, to prevent Frauds and Miſtakes.

Manufactures are the only means to enrich a Nation, ſupport the Crown, and not only employ the Poor, but alſo draw Foreigners into the Kingdom.

Likewiſe popularity in a Kingdom, is the enriching thereof; for by their Labour and Induſtry they will make Riches flow: Therefore a flouriſhing Trade will raiſe Wealth, and make the Nation happy and glorious; for it draweth Treaſures from foreign Countries, and keeps our own at home. It is well known, that this Kingdom is endowed with good Land for yielding of Hemp, Flax, *&c.* and alſo with good Air and Water, and all Materials, as Linnen Rags to make Paper, and Glue to ſize it; for the French formerly uſed to carry their Linnen Rags and Glue from hence to *France*, until prohibited by the late King's Proclamation; therefore the Paper Manufacture is evidently known to be of a vaſt Conſequence, when the *French* were ſo much againſt the Eſtabliſhment thereof, that Monſieur *Barylon*, the late *French* Embaſſadour, with his Factors, Agents, and Friends, uſed their utmoſt Endeavours to hinder the ſame, by enticing the Corporation's chiefeſt Workmen from their Paper Mills, with Bribes, and promiſes of great Rewards, and ſo ſent them away privately to *France*, to the unſpeakable Damage of this Nation and Corporation; beſides the Tax of Twenty Five Pound *per Cent.* laid by the late Parliament, upon all Writeing and Printing Paper, made, and to be made in this Kingdom, which obliged us to ſell our Paper the dearer, and the *French*, on the other hand, endeavouring to under-ſell us, hath been no ſmall Diſcouragement in the infancy of the Eſtabliſhment of this great and beneficial Manufactura. And this Kingdom being well accommodated with all Neceſſaries and Materials, as aforeſaid, by the growth and product thereof, to promote all the aforeſaid Manufactures, and being alſo furniſhed with good ingenious Workmen of ſeveral Nations, who can Manufacture all the aforeſaid Works, and teach the weaker ſort how to Work in their ſeveral Occupations, will conſiderably increaſe the King's Revenue.

Fourteenthly,

Fifteenthly,

Here is alſo, at this juncture, a very ſeaſonable opportunity for eſtabliſhing moſt of all other Manufactures which are in *France*, and ſo prevent vaſt Sums of Money which are uſually ſent from hence thither for ſuch Commodities, by imploying all ſorts of Artificers and Tradeſmen, as well *French* Proteſtants as others, who are to my certain knowledge) capable of Undertaking and Manufacturing the ſame, tho' for want of Aſſiſtance to ſet them to Work, ſeveral poor Families are ready to ſtarve: But if the ſaid Manufactures be encouraged, and thoſe poor Souls employed therein, that they may live, it will not only increaſe Trade, and the King's Revenue, and eſtabliſh new Manufactures here, but above all, it will draw Heaven's Benidiction on us, for thoſe *French* Proteſtants of this Nation, who have fled from their Native Country, and quitted Houſes, Lands, Goods, Stocks, Preferments, Imployments, and what elſe they had of their own, are the Flower of that Kingdom for Chriſtianity and Ingenuity, as I have been informed by certain learned judicious *Engliſh* Divines, and who think it a great happineſs to have eſcaped Perſecutions, Cruelties, and Tyrannies, wherewith they were daily oppreſſed, and have full liberty to ſerve God, and ſing Praiſes to his holy Name, under the Protection of his Sacred Majeſty, King *William*, whom God preſerve.

Sixteenthly.

Whereas it is manifeſt, that there never hath been ſeen heretofore in *England* ſuch numbers of Poor who want Work, as Silk and Linnen-Weavers, and other Tradeſmen; and alſo multitudes of poor Houſe-keepers, *&c.* that are ready to ſtarve for want of Work, who are not, nor cannot be employed in the Woollen Manufacture, but may in the Linnen, in making ſeveral ſorts of Linnen-Cloth, Sail-Cloth, Canvas, Thred-Laces, Fringes, and Tapes, Fiſhing-Nets, Ropes, *&c.* wherewith this Nation is ſupplyed by other Forreign Countries, to the value of ſeveral Hundred Thouſands of Pounds *per Annum*, as it may appear by the Cuſtome-houſe Books; which may be prevented by ſetting our Poor to Work in this Manufacture, and keep the Mony in the Kingdom: Therefore the employing of the Poor being for the good of all People, as Houſe-keepers, Merchants, Travellers, Farmers, and all manner of Dealers whatſoever, who are daily Sufferers, and much injured by Robbers, Thieves, and other vicious Perſons, and alſo very much oppreſſed and incumbred

Incumbred with the Poor: It is humbly hoped, that all good Chriſtians will hereunto afford a favourable Reception, it being for the Publick Good, as aforeſaid.

And for the better ſatisfaction of the Subſcribers, The ſaid Mr. *Dupin*, having been one of the firſt Governours of ſix Corporations for the Linnen and White Writing-paper Manufactures in theſe three Kingdoms of *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*, before ſpecified (as it may appear by ſix ſeveral Charters and Patents, enrolled in the High Court of Chancery in the aforeſaid three Kingdoms, Confirmed by four ſeveral Acts of Parliament, which paſſed the Royal Aſſent) is capable and qualified to manage this undertaking. So that a great number of Noble-men, Merchants and others, became Partners, and raiſed Stocks of two hundred thouſand Pounds, and upwards, and great Quantities of all ſorts of Linnen and White Writing-paper was made in the three Kingdoms, as good as any that came from beyond Sea, to the value of ſeveral hundred thouſand Pounds, which did employ many thouſands of Poor and other People, before, and during this laſt tedious War; whereby he hath much improved his Experience for diſcerning what is good and profitable in them to keep; and what hath been amiſs and loſs, to prevent for the time to come.

And whereas there are in and about the City of *London*, and within the Weekly Bills of Mortality, 135 Pariſhes; it is, for the conveniency of each Pariſh, propoſed, That there ſhall be one Subſcription Book, with printed Articles, to ſhew how things are to be governed and regulated: Which ſaid Books are to be lodged in ſome convenient place in each Pariſh, in the Cuſtody of reſponſable Perſons, in order to take in the Subſcriptions of all People who will be pleaſed to Subſcribe therein; and the Mony ſo Subſcribed to be collected about the begining of *January* next, by ſome truſty Perſons whom the Court ſhall appoint.

The ſaid Mr. *Dupin* doth oblige himſelf, at his own proper charges, to provide the ſaid 135 Subſcription Books for all the aforeſaid Pariſhes, and all the printed Articles and Propoſals, and to view the moſt proper Work-houſes, and make his Report to the Court for their Advice and Approbation; and will alſo produce to the ſaid Court a Liſt of the Names of all ſuch Work-Men and Women, and Servants, who ſhall be fit and qualified to teach the ſaid Poor to Work, and overſee the ſame; and will make an Inventory of all things neceſſary to be provided for the carrying on of this national and benificial Work; by which means the Pariſhes will be diſcharged of 50000 Poor, at the end of the firſt Year, and a perpetual Stock of Two Hundred Thouſand Pounds and upwards, will remain in clear profit, lodged in the Chamber of *London*, or Bank of *England*, for the uſe of the Poor.

The ſaid Mr. Dupin *may be ſpoke with by any of the ſaid Pariſhioners, and others, at his Office at Mr.* Woodward's, *a Book-binder in St.* Chriſtopher's *Alley, over againſt* Benn's *Coffee-houſe in* Thread-needle-Street, *near the* Royal Exchange, *where the Books are laid open, and Articles drawn, in order to take in Subſcriptions, Dated* Monday, November *the* 28th, 1698.

A brief Computation of the Coſts and Charges, and alſo of the Profits and Advantages which will accrue and ariſe by Employing 50000 *Poor, and others, in the ſeveral Pariſhes in and about the City of* London.

SUppoſe the aforeſaid 50000 Poor be Taught and ſet to Work, ſome may Earn 2 *d*, ſome 3 *d*, 4, 5 and 6 *d*, *per* Day; or ſuppoſe they may Earn, one with another, 3 *d*, *per* Day, which will amount to 625 *l. per* Day.

625 *per* Day.
3750 *per* Week.
195000 *per* Year.

There will be alſo 10 *per Cent.* clear Profit by the Sale of the Goods when Wrought and Manufactured, which will amount to about } 5000.

And ſuppoſe the charitable Contribution Money may come to Twenty Five Thouſand Pounds. } 25000.

Total. 225000.

Suppoſe after the Charges and Diſburſements in general, for Wheels, Reels, Hatchels, Looms, Reeds, Warping-Mills, Engins, Cuſhions, Bobbins, Parchment, Pins to make Lace, Stools, Tables, Benches, and Candleſticks, Workmen and Servants Wages, and all other incident Charges, and alſo for the Intereſt of 10 *per Cent.* allowed to the Subſcribers, about } 12000.

There will be a perpetual Stock remaining for the Poor, after all Deductions, at the Years end, of about } 213000

LONDON, Printed in the Year, 1698.